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The
American Historical Review

THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION AT NEW YORK

THE American Historical Association, whose history was recounted in our last October number, was founded in September, 1884, the American Economic Association in September, 1885. At Christmas, 1909, the one society would count a few months more than twenty-five years of prosperous existence, the other some months less. It was accordingly arranged that a joint anniversary celebration should take place in New York in the closing days of December, the usual time of the annual meetings. This gave beforehand an unusual character to the preparations. It was determined, by joint resolution, to be festive. The resolve to celebrate was well warranted by the abundant and intelligent work which the two societies have in twenty-five years accomplished, and by the significance of that work for the development of their respective sciences in recent times. In ordinary meetings they devote themselves with quite sufficient seriousness to grave historical problems, to currency and the trusts, "And what the Swede intend, and what the French". We have it on the highest Puritan authority that

For other things mild Heav'n a time ordains,
And disapproves that care, though wise in show,
That with superfluous burden loads the day,
And when God sends a cheerful hour, refrains.

Cheerful hours the committee of arrangements provided in abundance, and if at times the tickets of admission to them seemed relatively less abundant, it was because the attractions proved so much more potent in drawing members to New York than the modesty of a New York committee could permit them to anticipate. Where 330 had been the highest number of members in attendance at any previous meeting, no fewer than 565 were registered on the

present occasion. With the added hosts of the American Economic Association, the American Political Science Association, the American Social Science Association, the American Sociological Society, the American Statistical Association, the American Association for Labor Legislation, the American Society of Church History, and the Bibliographical Society of America, it made a formidable body, the entertaining of which must have taxed heavily the resources, and especially the organizing ability, of the New York members. Hospitality was however shown in extraordinary measure. There were luncheons, for some or all of the associations, provided by Columbia University, Teachers College, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Merchants' Association, and the Chamber of Commerce, receptions offered by the Academy of Political Science, Mrs. Clarence W. Bowen, and Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, and a "smoker" by the City Club of New York. At noon of the middle day there was a special breakfast at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria (which had been made the headquarters of the associations), at which brief speeches were made, congratulatory or commemorative of the work of the two elder societies. Special honors were paid on this occasion to the distinguished foreign guests whose presence the committee of arrangements had brought about. For the Historical Association, these were Professors George W. Prothero of London, Eduard Meyer of Berlin, Camille Enlart of Paris, and Rafael Altamira of Oviedo, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher of Oxford, and Dr. H. T. Colenbrander of the Hague. On the evening of the same day, the Ladies' Reception Committee provided a brilliant reception and entertainment in the hotel, with an exhibition of the work of the City History Clubs and a series of pleasing historical tableaux arranged by Mr. John W. Alexander. Finally, on the afternoon after the conclusion of formal exercises, there was an excursion by special train to West Point, where such members as made the journey enjoyed the hospitality of the Commandant and Mrs. Scott, and of other officers and ladies of the post.

All this made a formidable sum total of social events. Doubtless it was too formidable for ordinary physiques. Doubtless the more austere of the members of the historical profession would wish that in its annual meetings, in ordinary years, there should be less effort to mingle mundane attractions with its serious deliberations. But even these "budge doctors of the Stoic fur" appreciated that this occasion was special; that a meeting which was held in such a city as New York and at such a time as a twenty-fifth anniversary must needs be marked by special traits, and by special endeavors to bring home to the minds of the "world's

people" the meaning and value of twenty-five years' progress in history and political economy and of great national organizations for promoting that progress. If this required festivity, they could nerve themselves to be festive,

An' kerry a hollerday, ef we set out,
Ez stiddily ez though 't wuz a redoubt.

A drawback which always attends scientific meetings in large cities is the need of holding sessions in various places, widely separated in space. In the present instance, though the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria was the official headquarters, most of the meetings were held at Columbia University, one at the new building of the New York Historical Society, and one, the opening meeting, in Carnegie Hall. Another source of mental confusion was the inevitable multiplicity of the programme—nine societies, with subdivisions in some cases, continuing through more or less of five days, Monday noon to Friday noon, December 27 to 31, 1909. But this difficulty is always present, now that the Historical Association customarily meets with two or more of its allied organizations; and it is balanced by the advantage which one who masters the complexities of the programme, instead of permitting himself to be mastered by them, can derive from exercises in fields adjoining his own. Since each of these societies has its own means of public report,¹ the present article cannot undertake to deal with any but the historical programme. With this it deals perforce in somewhat annalistic fashion. When a meeting consists principally of simultaneous sessions of especial sections, that one-sixth of the membership which attended the meeting, as well as the five-sixths who were absent, may find use for a chronicle of what was brought forward in each subdivision or on each occasion. Before passing from general considerations, however, mention should be made of the interesting and valuable exhibition of aids to the visualization of history—objects and models, pictures and maps—prepared by Professors Henry Johnson and James T. Shotwell, and shown at Teachers College, and of the remarkable exhibit of historical manuscripts and rare printed books, from the collections of Columbia University, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, and others, which had been gathered together for the occasion by the university librarian, Mr. W. Dawson Johnston. The former of these two exhibitions is instructively described in the February number of the *History Teacher's Magazine*. It should also be recorded, with every expression of gratitude,

¹ The best general summary of the whole group of meetings may be found in *The Survey* for January 15, 1910.

that Professor William M. Sloane and Dr. Clarence W. Bowen, Professors Edwin R. A. Seligman and Samuel McCune Lindsay, constituted the Joint Anniversary Committee, and that Professor James T. Shotwell was the chairman of the Committee on Programme.

At the opening session ("Citizens' Meeting and Official Welcome" to the two celebrating societies), presided over by Mr. Joseph H. Choate, it had been arranged that the President of the United States, the governor of New York, the mayor of the city, and the president of Columbia University should speak, but a heavy storm prevented President Taft from coming. If much of what was said was marked by hardly more than postprandial felicity, Governor Hughes struck a higher note in his remarks on the value of historical and economic studies to the practical administrator and to the general public life.

Next morning's session at Columbia University was devoted to two presidential addresses, that of Professor Albert Bushnell Hart as president of the American Historical Association and that of Professor Davis R. Dewey as president of the American Economic Association. The former, on *Imagination in History*, was printed in the last issue of this journal. The latter was on *Observation in Economics*, a clear and thoughtful paper, containing much that it was profitable for historians to ponder.²

The session of Tuesday evening, at the building of the New York Historical Society, was appropriately devoted to addresses on the work of historical societies in Europe, each of the foreign guests speaking of their work in his own particular country—Professor Prothero of those of England, Professor Meyer of those of Germany, Professor Enlart of the French, Dr. Colenbrander of the Dutch, Professor Altamira of the Spanish. Their papers dwelt too much upon details and lists of individual societies to make it possible to summarize them here. The most instructive impression that disengaged itself from the mass was that of the wide variety of ways in which the work of historical societies, and historical work in general, stands related in different European countries to the respective governments. When the full reports are published, in the *Annual Report*, those who are interested in the growing problem of the relations of the state to history in America will find in them many useful suggestions. Four of the addresses of these distinguished foreign associates were given in excellent English, the fifth in French.

² Printed in the *American Economic Association Quarterly*, vol. XI., no. I, April, 1910.

On Wednesday morning occurred a joint session of the historical body and the American Political Science Association. By general agreement, it was one of the most interesting sessions which either society had ever had. The day (December 29) being the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Gladstone, the general topic chosen was British Constitutional and Political Development in the nineteenth century, with especial reference to that anniversary. An excellent introduction was furnished by Professor A. L. P. Dennis's comprehensive paper on Tendencies in British Foreign Policy since Disraeli, in which he surveyed the advances which thirty years have marked in the solution of the three regional problems most troublesome to the British government in 1880, those of Egypt, South Africa, and Afghanistan, and in the general progress of Anglo-French, Anglo-Russian, and Anglo-German relations. Professor George M. Wrong of Toronto followed with a brilliant and most able paper on Canadian Nationalism and the Imperial Tie.³ Defining his conception of the future of the British empire as the evolution of a league of free states acting together for their common interests, he showed by a wide variety of observations that Canada, preferring to remain as it is because natural growth is better than revolution, is now practically a free state preserving the whole range of British traditions. Mr. Edward Porritt's paper on the Paradoxes of Gladstone's Popularity was, he said, written from the standpoint of a former Parliamentary reporter. He dwelt first upon the aloofness which marked Gladstone's relations with the rank and file of his party, and explained why it existed and why it was not more prejudicial to his hold upon the Liberals and the country. The second paradox he set forth was that of the steady support of Gladstone by the Nonconformist electors, in spite of his imperfect sympathy with struggles for religious freedom and equality. He showed especially the part which that defect of sympathy had played in shaping the Education Act of 1870, retarding injuriously the achieving of a settlement satisfactory to the free churches.

Next, Mr. Herbert Fisher of New College, Oxford, who had been in South Africa when its new constitution was in process of formation, spoke of the Political Union of South Africa. He described the difficulties of federation, growing out of recent war, differences of language, previous separateness in government, and the presence and mutual relations of a white minority and a greatly superior number of black men. He described interestingly the pro-

³ The full text, both of Professor Dennis's paper and of Professor Wrong's, is to be printed in the *Proceedings* of the American Political Science Association, volume VI.

cesses by which the three chief compromises of the constitution of the Union had been brought about: that relating to the dual seat of government, Cape Town and Pretoria, that relating to the suffrage for members of the native races, and that relating to the use of two official languages. The British ambassador, Mr. James Bryce, spoke of Gladstone's relations to modern English constitutional development, showing how his efforts to extend the electoral franchise were grounded in trust of the people and in the belief that power would bring with it a sense of responsibility, and explaining that, though reluctant to draw tighter the political bonds of union between Great Britain and her colonies, he was always fully alive to the greatness and value of Britain's colonial empire.

The last whole day of the meeting (Thursday) had, it must be confessed, too full a programme. Four sectional meetings, or historical conferences, took place in the morning, devoted respectively to Ancient History, Medieval History, American History, and Archives; four in the afternoon, devoted respectively to Modern European History, American History, the work of State and Local Historical Societies, and that of History and Civics Clubs; while the annual business meeting was also scheduled for the afternoon, and a general session on Southern History occupied the evening. Of the nine sessions for paper-reading no single human being could, it is true, attend more than three; but it is better that one should have no chance to attend more than two in any one day.

The Ancient History section opened with a study of Western Asia in the Days of Sennacherib of Assyria, by Dr. A. T. Olmstead of the University of Missouri, a continuation of his book on Sargon after the same method, that of the *Jahrbücher des Deutschen Reiches*. The sources—Assyrian royal inscriptions, letters from the archives, business documents, the Babylonian Chronicle, and the Biblical records—were discussed with respect to their trustworthiness. This discussion was followed by a close study of the political history of the reign, the importance of which indeed is more exclusively political than that of most reigns in Assyrian history. The leading place was given to the wars relating to Babylon. Next followed a paper by Professor W. S. Ferguson of Harvard on Athens and Hellenism, which we hope to be able later to present to our readers. In the first part of the essay the attitude of the Hellenistic powers toward Athens was sketched; in the second, the reaction of Athens to the innovations of Hellenism in politics, government, and social and religious life. A third paper, by Professor Nathaniel Schmidt of Cornell, related to the Hellenistic Influence on the Origin of Christianity.

The conference had the great advantage of the presence of Professor Eduard Meyer of Berlin, who made some remarks on the Papyri of the Jewish Colony at Elephantine. A large number of these papyri still exist, mostly written in Aramaic and dating from the fifth century B. C. An important class is that of applications for personal safety. Some of them contain illustrations of a pre-Deuteronomic form of Jewish cult. An especially interesting document is the Story of the Wise Ahikar, a sort of Persian chronicle-romance, with Assyrian kings as conventional heroes. The book was read by the Jews from the fifth century; traces of its influence may be seen in the Hebrew and Hellenistic writings, in the latter case especially in the form of legends of Democritus.

The conference on Medieval History was held as a joint session with the American Society of Church History. In its first paper, Professor E. B. Krehbiel, of Leland Stanford University, dealt with the question of the degree to which the great Interdict, laid upon England by Innocent III. in the reign of King John, was observed. The paper, which was based on an examination of chronicles, pipe rolls, close rolls, plea rolls, and other records, showed that while, as the chroniclers unanimously assert, the Interdict was generally observed throughout England, yet the rewards that King John bestowed upon those who violated it, and the punishments that he meted out to those that regarded it, caused a considerable amount of disobedience among the clergy who were mercenary and who were subject to the immediate personal influence of the king. In the second paper, Rev. Edward W. Miller, of Auburn Theological Seminary, after sketching the origin and historical importance of the medieval trade-guilds, dwelt upon the religious character and fraternal spirit of the craft-guilds. These had their patron saints and usually one or more chaplains, and performed various religious or philanthropic acts, undertaking important charities even outside the circles of their members, and participating in the worship and support of the Church. The genuine spirit of brotherhood existing in these guilds, and their attempts to minister to the various moral and religious needs of their members, were contrasted with the temper and aims of the modern trade-union.

Treating of the Roman Law and the German Peasant, in a paper which we hope to print hereafter, Professor Sidney B. Fay of Dartmouth argued that there is no contemporary evidence for the commonly accepted views (1) that the introduction of the Roman Law tended to depress the German peasant of Luther's time into the condition of a Roman slave; (2) that there was a "popular opposition" to the Roman Law; and (3) that the introduction of the

Roman Law was a cause of the Peasants' Revolt of 1525. These ideas, he held, are in the nature of a legend, due partly to a confusion of peasant conditions in East and West Germany, partly to nationalistic prejudice, and partly to unwarranted generalizations.

M. Camille Enlart, professor of the history of architecture in Paris, made a plea for the study in America of the history of European medieval art. He showed how in France medieval art had been rehabilitated by the efforts of M. Viollet le Duc; gave a survey of present instruction in this subject in France, and showed why America should not be behind in this new movement. After sketching the successive stages of European art from the sixth to the sixteenth centuries, he outlined a programme of study suitable for American universities, describing in detail the requisite equipment of books, photographs, and casts.

Professor A. C. Howland, of the University of Pennsylvania, illustrated the special tendencies of the reform movement of the eleventh century in southern Germany—the fostering of an active intellectual life and the inculcation of practical morality—from the life of Othloh, a monk of St. Emmeram in Regensburg, whose writings contain much autobiographical material.

The first of the two conferences on American history was devoted specifically to Western history. Professor F. H. Hodder of Kansas read a paper, entitled *Side-Lights on the Second Missouri Compromise*, based chiefly on Missouri materials. He showed first that the new Missouri constitution was modelled on that of Kentucky, that there was no evidence that it was the work of David Barton, nor that Benton was justified in claiming to have secured the adoption of the clause respecting slavery. The author accounted for the change of votes in the national House of Representatives which permitted the admission of Missouri, and for the erroneous designation in the act of Congress of the objectionable clause in the state's constitution, and then showed how, in spite of the act, Missouri effected her purpose of excluding free negroes and mulattoes from the state. A paper on the Erie Canal and the Settlement of the West, by Mrs. Lois K. Mathews of Vassar College, was illustrated by maps of settlement in 1820, 1830, and 1840. Although New York and Pennsylvania were affected directly and at once, the greatest changes were wrought in those tracts bordering upon the Great Lakes, namely, northern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, southern Michigan and Wisconsin. Not only was the population greatly increased as the result of the new means of westward migration, but its character underwent a great change due to the large influx of New Englanders and New Yorkers. The sys-

tems of local government became more like those of New England, while schools and Congregational churches sprang up at once under the same influences. By figures of prices and rates, the nature and bulk of the traffic over the Erie Canal in its earlier years was also brought out.

Under the title *Some Aspects of Postal Extension into the West*, Professor J. P. Bretz of Cornell set forth the political services rendered by the Western posts in the early period under the Constitution. The desire to cultivate a better understanding of the measures of the national government and to promote the circulation of useful information concerning the great interests of the Union led Congress to make early provision, at some sacrifice of the interests of revenue, for the extension of postal routes and service west of the Alleghanies. The same motives led to the legislation of 1792 admitting newspapers to the mails on favorable terms, with provision for the free carriage of editorial exchanges. The development of the Western post-routes was followed closely by the development of a Western press. The large increase of Western newspapers from 1800 to 1812 was described, and the political effects of this development in those early years and down to 1836. The last paper, by Professor E. S. Meany of the University of Washington, was on Morton Matthew McCarver (1807-1875), a typical pioneer, founder of Burlington, Iowa, in 1833, of Linnton, Oregon, in 1843, of Sacramento in 1848, and of Tacoma in 1868.

The Conference of Archivists, organized by the Public Archives Commission, should mark an important point in the development of archival science in America. In opening the conference the chairman, Professor H. V. Ames, spoke of the work of the Public Archives Commission during the first decade of its existence, and pointed out the progress in legislation for the better care and administration of the public records, twenty-four states having passed measures of importance. It was hoped, he said, that the present conference would be the first of a series which should afford an opportunity for those having charge of public records to discuss problems of common interest. The first paper on the programme was by Mr. W. G. Leland of the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who outlined the various problems confronting American archivists. He distinguished between external regulation, mainly determined by legislation, and internal economy, mainly determined by the archivists themselves. As to external regulation, he pointed out that great diversity exists throughout the various states and that it would seem desirable to secure some degree of uniformity. Taking up

the problems connected with internal economy, he spoke of such matters as the collection of archive materials, their arrangement and classification, the nomenclature of series, various systems of indexing, the relationship of the archivist to the investigator and to his fellow-officials, the equipment of archive depositories, etc.

The purpose of the papers and remarks which followed was to point out in what ways American archivists could learn from European experience. Professor C. M. Andrews indicated three principal lessons to be learned from that of the English: the necessity of preserving archive material, the desirability of centralization, and the unfortunate effects of undue interference in the administration of the archives on the part of officials of other departments of the government. Professor C. R. Fish spoke of Italian experience and the way in which some of the evil effects of decentralization had been overcome by uniform legislation. As to indexing, he thought that the experience of the Vatican showed that one should beware of the wholesale methods of library science, the old-fashioned but thoroughly workable index in the Propaganda being much more useful than the elaborate index of the Vatican. Archive guides are important, especially when the collections are scattered, and more of them are needed for the United States. In Italy the public character of the records of families, churches, religious orders, and other organizations is well understood; in America we need to realize that the governmental archives are not the only bodies of important records. Professor W. I. Hull pointed out the necessity as shown in Dutch experience of arousing general interest in the preservation of public records. He spoke of the good results obtained from co-operation and conference among archivists. The archivists for the most part are specially trained. The national government exercises a general supervision over all records and the accommodations for the housing of the archives are of superior character. The Dutch government has been especially active in carrying on missions in foreign archives. Professor W. R. Shepherd said that the poverty of Spain made it impossible to make adequate provision for the archives, and that the government is indifferent towards records which are not used in actual administration. The archivists, however, although underpaid, are for the most part well trained. Mr. Shepherd spoke of the importance of the American material in Spanish archives and urged the necessity of taking measures to ensure its preservation. Mr. Amandus Johnson spoke of the early organization of the Swedish archives, the provision made for securing to investigators the services of trained copyists, the system of lending documents, the excellent book cata-

logues, and the comfortable accommodations provided for workers. The conference closed with a paper by Mr. V. H. Paltsits, state historian of New York, on Tragedies in New York's Public Records. He reviewed what had been done in New York for the preservation of archives, but spoke especially of what had not been done. He cited case after case of negligence, wanton destruction, fraudulent sale, and the deplorable ignorance of which those in charge of public records had been guilty. The necessity of immediate action for the preservation of and strict general supervision over public records was made clear. In closing he spoke of his efforts as state historian to secure legislation which should ensure the safe-keeping and proper administration of the state and local archives.

Of the afternoon's conferences we take up first that on Modern European History. Professor Ferdinand Schevill's paper on Some Features of the Present Political Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed at presenting merely the political impressions of a recent traveller. He touched on the merits of the Austrian administration, the prevalence and seriousness of popular discontent, and the difficulties in the way of settlement of the three chief questions: that raised by an antiquated feudal system of land-tenure, with Mohammedan landlords, the question of the Bosnian constitution, promised but not yet published, and the question whether Bosnia shall be incorporated with the Austrian or the Hungarian half of the dual monarchy. Professor G. S. Ford's paper on Bismarck as Historiographer consisted in an instructive survey of the *Gedanken und Erinnerungen* in the light of the German critical dissertations upon them and of the original and contemporary documents by which they may be controlled. The speaker showed from the history and from the dissection of this famous book that there were at least four limitations upon its direct use. Its point of view is political and personal, often polemical, not at all historical. Its arrangement is confused, and bears the impress of its origin in scattered monologues later arranged as best the editors might. It omits many matters of importance. Finally, it is the work of an aged and world-weary statesman little interested in the past and not naturally gifted with the power of taking an objective view of his own development and actions. The working of these limitations was illustrated by consideration of Prussian policy in the Crimean War, of the Hohenzollern candidacy for the throne of Spain, and of the discussions and negotiations preceding the truce of Nikolsburg.

The other two papers in this conference were general or pedagogical in character. Under the title Recent Progress in Modern

European History Professor W. E. Lingelbach showed by comparative statistics the growth in that study, both in undergraduate and in graduate courses, and in Europe as well as in America. The speaker adverted to the peculiar problems arising from the exceptional abundance, even superabundance, of original material for recent periods of history, and to the co-operative means by which this difficulty might be overcome. Dr. C. H. Hayes of Columbia University described a method practised in one of the courses in that institution, a course in the most modern portion of European history, whereby the portions of the current newspapers relating to European affairs are utilized as laboratory material, classified, subjected to criticism, discussed, and made the means of relating the present to the past.

The second conference on American History was devoted to the Ethnic Elements in the History of the United States. Professor Julius Goebel of the University of Illinois, after a brief survey of the earlier literature of German-American history, dwelt upon the failure of American historians to give sufficient weight to the German element in our history. He maintained that the German element to-day constitutes "at least one-third of our population", and that therefore the constant habit of assuming the Anglo-Saxon to have been always the typical American, all others "foreigners", could only lead to a distorted view of our history, and especially of the history of American culture, to which the German contribution had been definite, homogeneous, and constant. A careful study of the cultural status of the various generations of German immigrants, their geographical distribution, and the history of the subsequent development of their civilization, is strictly indispensable to the student of the history of our progress toward a higher national culture. Professor A. B. Faust of Cornell made, as in his recently published book, a more conservative estimate of the present-day population of German blood (27 per cent.), but thought it not greatly less than the English. He properly criticized the unsound method of determining these proportions in the Census volume recently published. He also dwelt upon the failure of historians to recognize duly this element; and upon the services it has rendered in politics and war, and especially in the furtherance of agriculture in America, of education, and of all that makes for the enjoyment of life, especially music.

The next paper, by Mr. Juul Dieserud, of the Library of Congress, was entitled, *The Scandinavians: Ethnic Characteristics; Causes of Emigration*. After giving some estimates of the numbers of the Scandinavian element, and an account of the anthropol-

ogy and archaeology of the three Scandinavian countries, the speaker discussed the economic and social conditions in these countries in their bearing upon the great exodus of the most recent decades. The leading motives were, land-hunger; dissatisfaction with a rigid social classification, which, however, is fast disappearing; the spirit of adventure; and, of less importance, dissatisfaction with religious intolerance, though at no time very pronounced, and with enforced military service; and finally, exaggerated conceptions of the economic and social advantages prevailing in this country. Dr. H. T. Colenbrander began his paper on the Dutch element in the United States by touching on certain of the late Douglas Campbell's theories of the preponderance of Dutch influence in America. He pointed out that these fallacious reasonings had worked their way to the fore in recent popular literature and had a deleterious effect on the true estimate of Holland. While acknowledging the failure of the West India Company's colonization and the limited extent of Dutch settlement here, he showed the peculiar influence of Holland on seventeenth-century civilization at large and her indirect effect on America.

The sixth annual Conference of Historical Societies was well attended. The chairman, Professor St. George L. Sioussat, opened the session with a brief account of the work of the conference since its organization at Chicago in 1904. He urged that future conferences should consider especially the matter of co-operation between societies. The secretary of the conference, Mr. W. G. Leland, presented an analysis of the reports sent in by over fifty societies. These showed a membership of nearly sixteen thousand, with property and funds amounting to nearly four million dollars. The activities of the societies, however, seemed not to be commensurate either in quality or in amount with their wealth and number of members. Mr. Dunbar Rowland, for the Committee on Co-operation, reported that, two thousand dollars having been subscribed, the work of preparing a calendar of the documents in the French archives relating to the history of the Mississippi Valley has been commenced. The subject for discussion at the conference was the publications of historical societies. Professor H. E. Bourne read a carefully prepared paper on What we can learn from the Publishing Activities of European Societies. Considering mainly the eight hundred societies of France and Germany, he pointed out that the Germans appear to manifest a greater spirit of co-operation and a higher sense of discipline, whereas in France there is an unfortunate division of societies into what may be regarded as reactionary and radical groups. He spoke especially of the collec-

tion and publication of documents relating to the economic history of the French Revolution, by a central commission and affiliated departmental commissions. Of the German organizations he mentioned especially the institutes or commissions which select and edit for publication historical documents from state, city, communal, or private archives. Mr. W. C. Ford's paper on Certain Defects in the Publications of American Historical Societies was exceedingly suggestive. He pointed out the lack of discretion, judgment, or knowledge, and the careless editing so often displayed. He deprecated the preponderance of articles of merely family or personal interest, suggesting as a remedy that the central society in each state might exercise some influence over local societies to prevent the duplication of work, to guard against the burial of material of general interest in obscure publications, and to aid if need be in the selection and printing of documents. In the discussion which followed Dr. R. G. Thwaites made a plea for a charitable judgment of the publications of societies which are dependent upon legislative appropriations. Mr. V. H. Paltsits urged that greater attention should be paid to good book-making, and Mr. R. D. W. Connor pointed out how the publication of the *North Carolina Colonial and State Records* had aroused a general interest in historical matters throughout the state and had resulted in the establishment of a permanent state commission.

In the conference on the Work of History and Civics Clubs, Miss M. Elizabeth Crouse described the Aim and Methods of the City History Clubs of New York, Mr. A. L. Pugh, of the New York High School of Commerce, set forth a Practical Programme in Municipal Civics for Clubs, and Mr. H. C. Green, of the College of the City of New York, described the actual work done in Civics Clubs.

The evening's session on Southern History was a general session of the Association. Its theme was special: Reconstruction and Race-Relations since the Civil War. Judge W. H. Thomas of Montgomery spoke of the South's Task: Some of its Difficulties, stating the need of constantly reckoning with conditions fixed by historical development, and of encouraging the negro to make progress along industrial lines. Professor W. A. Dunning of Columbia University, after sketching the course of federal and state legislation on the relations between the two races in the South since the war, declared, as the general opinion, that the time had passed when legislation could have much effect, one way or the other, in solving the race problem. Progress toward its ultimate solution will be brought about rather by social forces already at work, by

the increase of intelligence, and by better administration. Professor W. E. B. Du Bois of Atlanta University next presented a paper on *Some Actual Benefits of Reconstruction*, which we shall have the pleasure of printing in a later issue. Arguing against the almost accepted doctrine that the negro in politics was the prime cause of the misfortunes of that period, he called attention to the magnitude of the evils normally resulting from so great a war, even if there had been no men of his race in the South; to the possibilities of far greater evil in the courses which were alternative to the processes of reconstruction actually adopted; to current exaggerations of the actual harm of Reconstruction; and to the concrete benefits derived from legislation effected by Reconstruction governments supported by negro suffrage and with a large proportion of negro legislators—legislation which so commended itself to their successors as to have been long maintained in effect. Discoursing on the Negro Problem as affected by Sentiment, Mr. Theodore D. Jervcy of Charleston traced in the legal history of South Carolina the efforts of the white race to differentiate between classes of colored men, continuing the story down through the period of Reconstruction. The discussion which followed consisted largely of the conventional and non-historical discourses to which the topic too easily gives rise. Professor U. B. Phillips of New Orleans, however, usefully emphasized the opportunity and the need for careful and discriminating study of many such problems in economic history as that of the relative efficiency of negro labor in slavery and in freedom, together with the need for recognizing on the one hand the wide variety of types of negroes (and indeed also of Southern white men), and on the other hand the norm, and the degree of unity actually present; while Professor F. L. Riley of the University of Mississippi described, as a practical method which he had found of value, the setting of students to making close studies of actual conditions and results, during Reconstruction, in limited localities such as individual counties.

The last sessions, held on the last morning of the year, were two in number. The first was occupied with papers on the *Contribution of the Romance Nations to the History of America*, so richly deserving of greater attention on the part of American historical students, not only on account of the intrinsic interest and significance of the history of the Latin colonies, but also because of the relations of their rule and their civilization to the history of the United States. Professor Altamira, in a valuable paper on the *Contribution of Spain*, adverted to the deficiency of our knowledge of the history of Spanish colonization and action in America. In general, we

know it only in its external or superficial aspects. The history of institutions, of law, of economic and social life, of scientific and literary activity, as it has been presented to us, is full of lacunae, doubts, legends, and unanswered questions. This is largely due to the neglect of the rich archives of Spain, especially of the Archives of the Indies at Seville. Professor Altamira suggested the foundation there, by the governments or universities or historical agencies of the countries interested, of historical institutes of research similar to those existing at Rome. Dr. R. G. Thwaites, speaking of the Contribution of France, described the rise and fall of New France as a glowing epic, and set forth the results which French endeavor brought in exploration, in missionary activity, in settlement, in the development of the fur-trade, in ethnological study, and in the influence of the Gallic spirit.

Dr. Hiram Bingham, in speaking of the Contribution of Portugal, drew attention to the striking contrast between the empire of the Portuguese in the East Indies, of wonderful brilliancy but of transient endurance, and the solid and permanent colonization of Brazil, where industrious, frugal, agricultural colonists prospered so soundly that, like the English colonists in North America, they were able, when independence came, to become a single great nation and maintain a strong federation of states. He also dwelt on the excellent opportunities for instructive research which are presented by Brazilian history. The last of the papers in this conference was that of Mr. Francisco J. Yánes,⁴ of the International Bureau of the American Republics, on the contribution of the Latin-American Republics. Admitting that the new republics commenced their career heavily handicapped by economic conditions due to war, by scarcity of population, and even by over-abundance of Nature's productions, he described summarily the advances made in education, in literature and the fine arts, in the development of means of communication and the other material appliances of civilization, in sanitation, and in political life, with closing references to the Pan-American Conferences and the International Bureau of the American Republics.

In a pedagogical conference which was held at the same time, in joint session with the New York State Teachers' Association, two topics were considered, History in Secondary Schools in France and Germany, and the proposals of the Committee of Five appointed two years ago to consider certain questions arising out of the *Report of the Committee of Seven*. Miss Ellen Scott Davison, of

⁴ Printed in the February number of the *Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics*.

Bradford Academy, presented a report on the Teaching of History in Some German Schools, mainly based on visits to schools in Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Munich, Berlin, and Halle, in the summer of 1909. In all these schools there is a course in history for pupils from about nine to fourteen years of age, beginning with ancient history, ending with modern Germany, centring about Germany, and chiefly biographical. The gymnasia add a second course covering the same period in a more philosophical manner. In the popular schools visited, all material is presented by the teachers. In the gymnasia short lessons are assigned in very brief text-books, and the teachers' lectures furnish details; in general, pupils are not allowed to take notes but are expected to remember what they hear; in the supplementary reading, which is usually recommended, they may follow their own bent. The work is well correlated and uniformity of instruction is secured by universal enforced adherence to state curricula and by pedagogical training. In the enforced absence of Professor Henry Johnson of Teachers College, his paper on History in French Secondary Schools was summarized by Mr. James Sullivan, who described some changes effected by the laws of 1902 and 1905. Especially noteworthy is the adoption of the recitation method, lecturing to the class being forbidden by law, and the assignment of long lessons in full text-books. Wide reading is encouraged.

Professor A. C. McLaughlin, chairman of the Committee of Five on History in Secondary Schools, read a preliminary and in some respects tentative report from that committee. The committee was disposed to adhere in general to the recommendations made in the *Report of the Committee of Seven*. The carrying of ancient history down to 800 A.D. was approved; to add definiteness the committee will suggest the topics that should be treated in the later centuries of this period. As much colonial history as possible should be studied in connection with English history, so that only one month of the last year need be given to colonial history, and two-fifths of the year may be devoted to the separate study of civil government. The committee sympathizes with the demand for more time for modern European history and, as an alternative to emphasizing it at the expense of medieval history in the second year, suggests the substitution in the second year of a course in English history (to 1760), which would bring in general medieval history; and a third-year course in modern European history with introductory matter concerning the later Middle Ages.

Throughout the sessions, except in this last or pedagogical conference, the absence of informal discussion was almost complete.

What is planned by a programme committee to be a free discussion of this sort has for several years seemed fated, in every conference except those devoted to curricula and methods of teaching, to turn into a series of ten-minute written papers not differing except in length from the series of twenty-minute papers which has preceded. Amid the chorus of congratulation upon the advances made in history in this country during the last twenty-five years, there is grave reason to doubt whether, in the last decade at least, that quick and vivid interest in research which would make discussion inevitable on such occasions has increased at all, except in the sense that the profession has grown larger, and that greater numbers of young men conform to the requirement of the doctoral thesis. Some two hundred and twenty-five such dissertations are listed as having been printed in the last twenty-five years; but the writer of these pages knows of but fifteen persons in the list who have since published other equally extensive pieces of historical research. The number of valuable American historical books reviewed in the fourteenth volume of this journal was not much greater than in the first.

That the Association itself, however, is doing its part to cause historical work in the United States to progress, was plain from the transactions of the business meeting, which now remain to be described. The secretary, Mr. W. G. Leland, reported a total membership of 2743 (or 2481, if those are omitted who are delinquent in the payment of dues). The report of the treasurer, Dr. C. W. Bowen, showed net receipts of \$9521, net expenditures of \$8649, an increase of \$819 in the funds of the Association, and total assets of \$26,903.

The Public Archives Commission reported that it expected to present, for publication in the next annual volume, reports on the archives of California, Illinois, and New Mexico, and that, by action of the Council, the Commission, reinforced by five other members, would act for the United States in the organization of the International Congress of Archivists to be held at Brussels in August, 1910. The Committee on the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize reported the award of the prize to Dr. Wallace Notestein, of the University of Minnesota, for an essay entitled "A History of English Witchcraft", which will follow Dr. C. E. Carter's essay on "Great Britain and the Illinois Country" in the Association's new series of prize essays. On behalf of the General Committee extensive efforts for increase of membership were reported, with gratifying results indicated in the figures quoted above.

Brief reports were also made on behalf of the Pacific Coast

Branch (represented on the present occasion by Professor Bernard Moses), the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Board of Editors of this journal, the Committee on Bibliography, the Committee on Publications, the general editor of the "Original Narratives of Early American History", the Committee of Five on History in Secondary Schools, and the Committee appointed last year on a Bibliography of Modern English History. The Council announced the membership of the Committee on Programme for the meeting at Indianapolis in December, 1910, of the Local Committee of Arrangements for that occasion, of a committee to report at the next meeting on questions concerning Historical Sites and Monuments (President E. E. Sparks, chairman), and the membership for the ensuing year of the various permanent committees and commissions. A list of these follows. Professor F. J. Turner was appointed a member of the Board of Editors of this journal, for a period of six years beginning January 1, 1910, in the place of Professor Hart, whose term expired and who declined re-election after invaluable services to the REVIEW from its beginning in 1895.

The committee on nominations, Professors MacDonald, W. E. Dodd, and Wrong, proposed a list of officers, all of whom were chosen by the Association. Professor Frederick J. Turner was elected president for the ensuing year, Professor William M. Sloane and Theodore Roosevelt vice-presidents. Mr. Waldo G. Leland was elected secretary, Professor Charles H. Haskins secretary of the Council, Dr. Clarence W. Bowen treasurer, and Mr. A. Howard Clark curator. In the place of Mr. Ford and Professor MacDonald, who had served three terms in the Executive Council, President Edwin E. Sparks and Professor Franklin L. Riley were chosen.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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<i>First Vice-President,</i>	Professor William M. Sloane, New York.
<i>Second Vice-President,</i>	Theodore Roosevelt, Esq., New York.
<i>Secretary,</i>	Waldo G. Leland, Esq., to be addressed at the Carnegie Institution, Washington.
<i>Secretary of the Council,</i>	Professor Charles H. Haskins, 15 Prescott Hall, Cambridge.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	Clarence W. Bowen, Esq., 130 Fulton Street, New York.
<i>Curator,</i>	A. Howard Clark, Esq., Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

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Committees:

Committee on Programme for the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting:

Professor Evarts B. Greene, Urbana, Ill., chairman; Wilbur C. Abbott, Archibald C. Coolidge, Earle W. Dow, William L. Westermann, James A. Woodburn.

Local Committee of Arrangements for that Meeting: Calvin N.

Kendall, Esq., Indianapolis, Ind., chairman; Christopher B. Coleman, Jacob P. Dunn, Evarts B. Greene, T. C. Howe, Meredith Nicholson, Charles R. Williams.

Editors of the American Historical Review: Professor George

B. Adams, Yale University, chairman; George L. Burr, J. Franklin Jameson, Andrew C. McLaughlin, William M. Sloane, Frederick J. Turner.

Historical Manuscripts Commission: Worthington C. Ford, Esq.,

Massachusetts Historical Society, chairman; Herbert D. Foster, Gaillard Hunt, Thomas M. Owen, Ulrich B. Phillips, Frederick G. Young.

Committee on the Justin Winsor Prize: Professor Theodore C.

Smith, Williamstown, Mass., chairman; Carl Becker, Francis A. Christie, John H. Latané, Claude H. Van Tyne.

Public Archives Commission: Professor Herman V. Ames, Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania, chairman; Charles M. Andrews, Clarence S. Brigham, Robert D. W. Connor, Carl R. Fish, Victor H. Paltsits, Dunbar Rowland.

Committee on Bibliography: Professor Ernest C. Richardson,

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Committee on Publications: Professor William A. Dunning,

Columbia University, chairman; and (*ex officio*) Herman V. Ames, George L. Burr, Worthington C. Ford, Charles

¹ Ex-presidents.

H. Haskins, J. Franklin Jameson, Waldo G. Leland, Ernest C. Richardson, Theodore C. Smith.

Committee on the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize: Professor George L. Burr, Cornell University, chairman; Guy S. Ford, Edwin F. Gay, James W. Thompson, John M. Vincent.

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Committee on History in Secondary Schools: Professor Andrew C. McLaughlin, University of Chicago, chairman; Charles H. Haskins, James H. Robinson, James Sullivan.

Committee on a Bibliography of Modern English History: Professor Edward P. Cheyney, University of Pennsylvania, chairman; Arthur L. Cross, Roger B. Merriman, Ernest C. Richardson, Williston Walker.

Conference of State and Local Historical Societies: Clarence M. Burton, Esq., Detroit, Mich., chairman; Waldo G. Leland, secretary.

Committee to Report on Historical Sites and Monuments: President Edwin E. Sparks, Pennsylvania State College, chairman; Henry E. Bourne, Edmond S. Meany, Frank H. Severance, Reuben G. Thwaites.